Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 OMB-01 /098 W ------049437 091151Z /43

R 090950Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8627 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY MANILA AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS JAKARTA 6001

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ASEAN, ID

SUBJECT: MINISTER WIDJOJO COMMENTS ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN

- 1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMY, FINANCE AND INDUSTRY WIDJOJO WAS QUOTED IN LOCAL PRESS MAY 9 AS SAYING THAT IF THE US REALLY CONSIDERS ASEAN IMPORTANT IT SHOULD PROVE IT. SUCH PROOF CANNOT BE DEMONSTRATED BY "LOANS AND CREDITS" BUT WILL DEPEND ON THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS WIDER ISSUES, INCLUDING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND THE COMMON FUND, AND THE EFFECT ON TIN-PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF US RELEASES OF TIN STOCKPILES.
- 2. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN WHICH THE RESULTS OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT WERE DISCUSSED, WIDJOJO ALSO COMMENTED ON THE FAVORABLE IRS DECISION REGARDING TAXATION OF US OIL COMPANIES AND ADDED THAT THE US WOULD IMPORT LNG FROM ACEH'S ARUN FACILITY. HE SAID THE IMPORTS HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE US DECISION TO ACCEPT THE PRICE ESCALATOR FORMULA SUGGESTED BY THE GOI BUT CONTRASTED THE DRAWN-OUT UNCLASSIFIED

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US NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE THE GOI HAD HAD WITH JAPAN, WHICH "ACTED QUICKER". WIDJOJO WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE US WOULD HELP TO FINANCE THE ARUN PROJECT.

3. COMMENTING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, WIDJOJO SAID THE US ADMINISTRATIN IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN AN EXEMPTION FOR INDONESIA FROM THE CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED GSP BAN ON

OPEC BUT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN IT MIGHT BE SUCCESSFUL. HE ALSO VOICED ASEAN'S CONTINUED HOPE THAT THE US WOULD KEEP IN EFFECT ITS TAX DEFERRAL SYSTEM.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH WIDJOJO MAY 11 AND WILL DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH HIM AT THAT TIME. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TRADE, TAX LAW, POLICIES, TARIFFS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SPEECHES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 09 may 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART06001
Document Source: CDR

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D780196-0124 Format: TEL From: JAKARTA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Expiration:

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780580/aaaacpsp.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 5d9c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2754348 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MINISTER WIDJOJO COMMENTS ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD ASEAN

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, ID, US, ASEAN, (WIDJOJO NITISASTRO)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d9c2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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